

# **City of Sammamish**

## **Parks And Recreation Commission**

### **Meeting Summary**

**February 10, 2003 Meeting - 6:30 p.m. City Hall**

#### **1. Call To Order**

The meeting commenced at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Joyce McCallum, Cornell Amaya, Paul Brodeur, Chris Leyerle, John Rossi, David Lee, Robert Armstead, Patrick Schlight, Tom Schloetter, Jeff Watling, Manager, and Hope Gibson, Park Planner. Ben Yazici, City Manager, was present for part of the meeting.

Not Present: Lynn Rehn

Minutes: Joyce will provide the minutes of the January Parks Commission meeting for review and approval prior to the March meeting.

#### **2. Public Comment**

a. Ilene Stahl representing Friends of Pine Lake, provided comments on the potential adverse impacts on Ebright Creek that could result from tree removal and park development at the Ebright Creek site. She stated that the salmon in the creek are a unique sub-species of salmon and recommended that protecting the salmon stream should be the highest priority in any park development decisions. Ms. Stahl stated that she attended the public meetings on Pine Lake Park and she does not think that the Ebright Creek public process was fair or the same when compared to the Pine Lake process.

b. Bob Sherwin, a neighbor of the Ebright Creek Park site, expressed concern about the impact on the neighborhood that could result from development of the park. He believes that the site is not suitable for a sports field and would like to see the site developed as a natural park. He stated that the park, as designed, does not reflect the needs of the neighborhood. He expressed concern about the park planning process.

c. Steve Doerrer, a neighbor of the Ebright Creek Park site, stated that a ball field is not compatible with a neighborhood park. Mr. Doerrer works for the Bellevue Parks Department and believes that Bellevue made a mistake by spreading their ball fields out

around the city. That created problems of parking, maintenance, trash and noise in more locations than if ball fields had been concentrated in one location. He was especially concerned about noise from a ball field.

d. Linda Roberts, a neighbor of the Ebright Creek Park site, stated that she felt cheated with the public input process for this park. She said neighbors wanted to be part of the process and she was concerned at not being included. She expressed concern over the loss of tall trees to create a ball field. Ms. Roberts believes that the safety on 212th will be a bigger problem if a park with a ball field is built at the site.

e. Katie Nielsen, representing the Youth Board, expressed an interest in the status of the skate park.

### **3. New Business**

a. Joyce discussed the formation of and assignments to the Parks Commission's Committees. She passed out a sheet with Committee assignments and possible tasks/questions for the Committees to address. Each Committee should meet once prior to the March Parks Commission meeting. Committee members to schedule the meeting time and place. Each Committee should plan goals and objectives and consider a near-term plan and be ready to report out at the next Commission meeting.

b. Joyce recommended inviting Lee Springate to come and speak with the Council and Commission on Olmstead/green space park planning concepts. Jeff will check on his availability.

### **4. Unfinished Business**

a. Ebright Creek Park.

- Jeff discussed the two public meetings. The current discussion about the park elements are a programming issue, what should go in the park-sports or passive recreation?
- John expressed concern about the public input process and wants to do better in future projects. He wished he had heard of the concerns earlier.
- Bob stated that the public input being heard now was single issue from residents who did not want ball fields. He said the Commission and Council need to address the overall needs of the City.
- Pat expressed that the public input being received now should have been received last August. He recommended better outreach to the public affected by projects.
- Tom stated that he had attended the first public meeting on Ebright Creek Park and that the public comment was overwhelming positive on the park. He encouraged that we consider the needs of the entire neighborhood when designing this park.

- Joyce defined the issues that have been raised as: 1) Should you put a ball field in a park when the City needs it but some neighbors do not want it? and, 2) Can we protect a salmon bearing stream when building the park?
- Paul expressed that a neighborhood park is a place for kids to gather and that sports fields provide neighborhood children an opportunity to that.
- Ben discussed next steps for the park project. The comments received at the public meetings will be summarized and the participants will get a response. The comments will be presented to the City Council. Ben expressed his conviction to do the park right in an environmentally sensitive way that balances the needs of the entire community.

After considerable discussion the sense of the Parks Commission was that the Ebright Creek Park site development should continue with the combination soccer/baseball field included.

b. Parks Commission appointments. Bob has agreed to continue serving as an Alternate Commissioner. David and Cornell have expressed interest in becoming full Commission members. The Parks Commission made the following recommendations to the City Council:

- Appoint David Lee and Cornell Amaya as Parks Commissioners.
- Extend Bob Armstead's appointment as an Alternative Commissioner.
- Seek two new Alternate Commissioners.

c. Sammamish Commons.

- Jeff said that the Parks Department will be seeking Council's input on what to do with the existing buildings on the site. That decision will have a major impact on the park planning process. The City will conduct a quick study of possible uses for the buildings.
- Ben addressed the status of the skate park. The intent is to build it away from residences in a safe and secure place. It may be built with a climbing structure. Ben said the skate park is not something that the Parks Commission needs to deal with.

## **5. Manager's Report**

a. 2003 Work Plan. Jeff distributed and discussed the Parks and Recreation Department's 2003 Work Plan.

b. Jeff gave an update on parks operations and maintenance. Beaver Lake Park will be a priority for the Park Resource Management Division. Mike Farrell left the City to return to his home area in the Midwest. The City will be recruiting to fill his position.

c. Summer Concerts in Pine Lake Park. Jeff gave a status of the concert series planning. Potential performers are being identified. Events will begin the week after July 4th and continue through August. Ten events are planned, 6 concerts, 2 Shakespeare plays, and 2 movies. Concerts will be Thursdays, plays and movies on Saturdays.

d. City Council Study Session. To be held February 25th at 7:30 p.m. at the Water Commission building. Subjects include the Sammamish Commons and interlocal agreements with schools to use school buildings.

**6. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

**Next meeting March 17, 2003, City Hall**

**Please get information to Jeff one week prior to the next meeting to be included on the agenda.**